

## **Annex to St Erth SEND information report in light of COVID-19, school closures and SEND provision**

At St Erth School we have endeavoured to provide a full and complete curriculum for ALL children, including our pupils with SEND.

As such, vulnerable pupils with those with SEND have been able to come into school and access learning throughout the pandemic with the school following Covid safe protocols. (See St Erth School Covid Risk Assessment).

Where it has been deemed safer for a pupil with SEND to remain at home in agreement with both school and parents (and where appropriate social worker). The school has continued to provide remote education through online platforms and differentiated activities.

All teachers also gave help such as:

- suggesting different ways in which children can present their work;
- giving more detailed instructions;
- providing parents with suggestions to make tasks more practical in nature;
- providing alternative work which is targeted at their level of need where they may not ordinarily access curriculum subjects at age expected levels.

This has all been in line with the St Erth Remote Learning Policy.

For some children, accessing online learning regularly has been difficult and as soon as was possible, these children were invited to attend school in person. For others, door step visits took place.

Teachers had screen or voice contact with pupils every day and the SENDCo and Head Teacher spoke to pupils and parents of children with SEND weekly. The SENDCo was available to talk parents through strategies that could be helpful in maintaining a positive mindset for their child and any other aspects that could be challenging such as sleep.

TAs were employed to continue maintaining contact and ensuring positive mental health was retained.

If pupils started to show any degree of lowered mental health or fear, they were invited to a weekly Zoom meet up lead by the SENDCo/TiS practitioner which focussed solely on wellbeing.

Outside agencies continued to be involved in the development of pupils at the request of the school. Some agencies wanted to conduct everything

via Zoom/Teams and where this was not appropriate for some children they were requested to attend face to face with appropriate covid safe protocols (eg initial SALT assessment for YR pupils).

The Government passed the Coronavirus Act 2020 which gave temporary emergency powers to the Government to issue a notice (a month at a time) that modified the legal requirements on Local Authorities in relation to Education, Health and Care Plans. If this notice is issued it would be in relation to two key areas:

*The absolute duty to make the provision in an EHC plan (section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014) is to be temporarily amended to a 'reasonable endeavours' duty. This means that during the specified period the LA needs to do whatever it reasonably can to put provision in place, but if they cannot do so they would not necessarily be breaching the law.*

*Disapplying the duty to undertake annual reviews of EHC plans.*

However, at St Erth, work continued to ensure that requests for EHCPs took place and provision needed would be in place as schools began to return to face to face teaching. No annual reviews were delayed.

As face to face teaching has returned the school has been aware of the affect this has had on the mental health of some. Conversations have taken place with the teacher, Head teacher and SENDCo where any concern has been flagged by parent, carer or staff member and provision put into place, such as continued staggered starts, meet and greets, Connect(TiS) sessions, Monday morning mindful starts and links to websites that have other resources that could be used by the family. Where there has been greater concern referrals to Family Support have been made.

Covid catch up funding has been thought through and carefully allocated following assessment of need for all pupils including our learners with SEND to achieve the best outcomes.

Should another outbreak take place we will follow the Covid Outbreak Management Plan. Pupils with SEND would be classed as vulnerable and would therefore be encouraged to remain in face to face teaching where risk assessments allow and if isolation was deemed necessary all provision would be maintained as far as possible.

It continues to be our aim that every child at St Erth achieves their full potential.

